

Early Education and Care

A. Take Full Advantage of Existing but Underutilized Means of Reducing Expenditures

1. Identify and use appropriate, underutilized state space and public school space at cost for private providers of early education and care

B. Use Regional or Statewide Models to Achieve Efficiencies

1. Provide centralized services to providers to achieve economies of scale in areas such as human resources, staffing, space, marketing and food services

C. Use “Best Practice” Standards to Realize Cost Reductions

1. Establish a program of energy audits of provider facilities

D. Reduce Net Spending through Greater Cost Sharing

1. Institute new collection program to recoup parent fees from those who don’t pay
2. Identify and bill the federal government for services, such as mental health, that are Medicaid eligible
3. Collect additional federal reimbursements for existing costs in collaboration with UMass or colleges

E. Partner with Private Sector to Access Additional Resources

1. Enact corporate tax incentives for companies that provide reduced-cost or no-cost space for child care providers at their facilities

F. Undertake Other Financial, Structural or Legal Reforms

1. Restructure existing fragmented purchase of service system – now divided into three separate mechanisms – into a single common approach
2. Realign service delivery systems, currently organized around funding source and type of provider, to focus on program functions such as access management and quality support, with administrative responsibility assigned to the level of government (local, regional or state) that can most cost effectively fulfill the function

Elementary and Secondary Education

A. Take Full Advantage of Existing but Underutilized Means of Reducing Expenditures

1. Reduce active and retired employee health insurance costs by requiring all districts to join the Group Insurance Commission
2. Encourage lower utilization of higher-cost indemnity plans
3. Mandate that retired school employees in all districts apply for Medicare Part B
4. Increase the number of districts that apply for Medicaid reimbursements by:
 - Negotiating increases in the percentage of reimbursement dollars that cities and towns share with districts, or
 - Passing legislation that allocates Medicaid reimbursements directly to public school budgets

B. Use Regional or Statewide Models to Achieve Efficiencies

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Utilize regional or statewide purchasing and delivery of services to realize economies of scale: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In-district and out-of-district student transportation planning and delivery Heating and utility services Legal services “Back office” operations such as IT, accounting and human resources Purchase of services from Ch. 766 approved private residential schools 	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen the school collaborative system as a means to achieve regional economies of scale, through accreditation, consolidation or merger of existing collaboratives to leverage greater purchasing power, and financial and non-financial incentives for districts to use services such as <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staffing and professional development Bulk purchasing Transportation planning and delivery More special education placements (rather than private placements) Technology planning, installation and maintenance Energy management Regional transportation for students in adjacent districts 	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Expand the use of a regional superintendent model in small districts and vocational school districts 	
C. Use “Best Practice” Standards to Realize Cost Reductions	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Engage in systematic program to reduce cooling and heating costs of district facilities, especially in the highest cost buildings – those 80 years or more in age 	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Establish preferred provider lists for purchase of out-of-district special education services and require districts to select from the lists based on cost and quality measures 	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and apply best practice standards for school level managerial staffing 	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Revise and update the state’s procurement law, raising thresholds for price quotations and sealed bids, exempting projects that are under \$25,000 from prevailing wage requirements, and allowing more market-responsive purchasing practices 	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Improve purchasing by increasing training for school district administrators and by making on-line high-quality model bid and other documents for major purchases 	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Put MCAS testing on-line to reduce shipping and postage costs as well as delays in receiving test results 	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Eliminate duplicative translation of required documents by multiple districts via an on-line library of translated documents 	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Provide internet-based transportation routing software to school districts 	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Expand use of ESCOs among schools, for-profit education providers and municipal buildings 	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Fund a performance-based award program for school teams that demonstrate continuous improvement in student achievement indicators 	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Establish an annual awards program for districts that are most effective in generating savings and achieving efficiencies 	

12. Time use of facilities – in particular by changing school vacation schedules – for maximum fuel efficiency and conservation of energy	
<i>D. Reduce Net Spending through Greater Cost Sharing</i>	
1. Reduce district health insurance costs by increasing employee contribution rates	
<i>E. Partner with Private Sector to Access Additional Resources</i>	
1. Implement the Governor’s proposal to establish a high-profile, public-private fundraising partnership – the Commonwealth Education Innovation Fund – and target a portion of the Fund’s resources to the development of collaboratives and to award districts for cost-saving use of collaboratives	
2. Increase donations of new computer and science equipment by private companies through district financial participation in the form of matching funds	
3. Authorize higher tax breaks for targeted individual and corporate donations that serve: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - More low income students - Reduce the achievement gap - Increase graduation rates by dropouts or those at risk of dropping out - Support English as a Second Language - Serve both college and K-12 students 	
4. Leverage greater cooperation between state agencies to develop more competitive educational grant award proposals and to give priority to proposals for programs that : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Serve more low income students - Reduce the achievement gap - Increase graduation rates by dropouts or those at risk of dropping out - Support English as a Second Language - Are directed to both college and K-12 students 	
<i>F. Undertake Other Financial, Structural or Legal Reforms</i>	
1. Overhaul the system of delivering special education: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Change class size requirements for assigning aides and teachers - Provide more early, intensive instructional interventions to lower referral of students to special education - Modify the special education circuit breaker to give financial incentives for in-district/collaborative placements in lieu of costlier private placements - Provide greater oversight of out-of-district placements through district budget audits and mandatory action plans to reduce inappropriate placements - Establish a greater role for local collaboratives in providing placements - Revise the state’s process for setting private school tuitions - Purchase of services from Ch. 766 approved private residential schools 	
2. Reform DESE grant funding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Streamlining grant funding procedures - Reassess and modify the share of dollars going to allocated funds and to grant awards - Shifting under-awarded funds to other grant programs - Establish award criteria based on results and outcomes 	

3. Reform state education law that sets requirements for: Transportation distance from home to school	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Transporting private and parochial students - Extra costs for charter school transportation 	
4. Capturing “turnover savings” from the jump in number of teacher retirees expected over the next five years	
5. Shift annual funding responsibility for district foundation budgets to the state, combined with new model for sharing of costs with localities	

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Higher Education

Joint Contracts for Food Services	
Joint Bookstore Contracts	
Joint Banking Contracts	
Statewide Contract for Higher Education Auditing	
Statewide Contract for Office Supplies	
Joint Energy Contracts	
Joint ESCOs	
Joint Waste and Recycling Contracts	
Statewide Contract for Computers	
Statewide Vending Contract	
Joint Bidding for Copy Machines	
Joint Fleet Purchasing	
Collaborative Bidding for Emergency Notification Systems	
Collective Bids for Insurance	
Establish State Higher Education Office of Procurement: Joint effort of UMass, the State and Community Colleges	